

# Women's Societies

## SUGGESTIONS.

By Miss C. L. Campbell.

"And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord."—2 Kings 19:15.

There is great happiness in knowing that in so many quarters those who are in the position to do it are putting missions in the Sunday-school.

In answer to the inquiries coming to this column as to "how to start," it is urged that you first do what Hezekiah did. Then the following books are given as very helpful, sometimes as giving details, and sometimes starting a line of thought which you missionary superintendents can easily adapt to your own needs:

"The Why and How of Missions in the Sunday-School," by William A. Brown. Fleming H. Revell Co., New York. 50 cents.

"Missions in the Sunday-School," by M. B. Hixson. Methodist Missionary Society, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York. 60 cents.

"Missionary Program Material," by A. B. Ferris. Missionary Education Movement, New York. 60 cents.

And "Five Missionary Minutes, and Missionary Programs," by Trull. Missionary Education Movement, New York. Each 50 cents.

Write the same houses for other material and watch this column. Next week will bring you an especially interesting suggestion.

Be sure to vary your program in Sunday-school, sometimes having something to see, sometimes something entertaining to hear, and oftentimes a great fact quietly stated, that will set your whole school to thinking then, and to praying through the whole week. Ask them next Sunday if they would not like to have our Mission Office in Nashville close the books this year without a debt, and add that if everybody in the Southern Presbyterian Church would give \$2 a year there would not be any debt; then ask, "Won't you be one of the 'everybody's' who will make up the \$2 before the year is out, March 31st?"

Write to Dr. John I. Armstrong, at Nashville, Tenn., and tell him what you are doing, and ask for help. This he will give generously. Ask for charts for your walls. Also, write to Dr. S. L. Morris, Hurt Building, Atlanta, Ga., for Home Mission charts.

It would seem much better to vary these charts, leaving one or two on the walls for a few Sundays, then putting up others, and then coming back to the first, and so on, so that they may not lose the force of their message.

Appalachia Synodical held its second annual meeting at First Presbyterian church in Bristol, Tenn., with Mrs. Walter McCoy, of Knoxville, presiding, beginning on the afternoon of October 5th and extending through Friday, October 7th. Mr. Carson, the pastor, being absent, Mr. Thompson, of King College, gave the word of greeting, to which Mrs. Ferguson responded. The work of the first day's meeting consisted of appointing committees and discussing questions of business.

Dr. Smith's address and the missionary pageant were two very interesting features of the Synodical, besides many splendid talks made by the members.

Aheville's invitation for next annual meeting accepted.

This closed a very profitable meeting.

Oklahoma Synodical will be held at Shawnee, Okla., October 31st and November 1st. The special features of the meeting will be an address by Mrs. Winsborough, superintendent Women's Work, and one by a returned woman missionary from Mid-China Station, a missionary pageant by the young people of Shawnee, and conferences with Mrs. Winsborough.

Effie M. Ralls, Pres.

Texas Synodical: The thirteenth annual meeting of the Woman's Synodical Auxiliary was held in Bryan, October 10-13th, opening Tuesday evening, October 10th, in connection with Synod. The formal opening was on Wednesday at 9:30 A. M., and the response to roll-call showed an unusual number in attendance, every Presbyterian but one being represented.

Mrs. A. D. Rice, missionary to China, led some of the devotional exercises. On Thursday afternoon she made a very impressive talk on the work among the Chinese women, that stirred the hearts of her hearers, making each one long to go over and help her.

Dr. E. W. Smith, ex-Secretary of Foreign Missions; Dr. Homer McMillon, Field Secretary of Home Missions; Dr. Henry H. Sweets, ex-Secretary of Christian Education and Ministerial Relief, and Mr. W. L. Hickman, representing the Publication Committee, all made interesting and helpful talks on the causes they represent.

Rev. C. N. Ivy, chairman of Woman's Work, brought a message of greetings from Synod, which was very much appreciated.

"A Diet for a Sick Church," dramatized from Dr. Vance's leaflet of the same name, was realistically rendered by six young ladies of Bryan, and was a delightful and helpful diversion.

The program was full of good and interesting numbers, and especially fine was the model mission study class conducted by Mrs. W. L. Hickman, of Texarkana, who also gave an instructive talk on "The Art of Story-Telling."

The main feature was the message from Mrs. Cris G. Dulling, of San Antonio, our capable and efficient president, who has with marked executive ability, consecration of life and purpose, and concentration of effort made her leadership of unusual success. Out of her heart she brought a message to her co-laborers, and begged that they think prayerfully over the untouched territory in their special fields, and in so doing not only would the revelation come, but that effort, if used as it should be, would help to bring about a change in existing conditions where the needs so perceived would result in the expansion of His kingdom and the betterment of those who are yet untouched in the home field.

The next meeting will be held in Cuero, the first Tuesday in November, 1917.

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Willcox, Sec.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSIONARY EDUCATION OF VIRGINIA SYNODICAL.

I would like to discuss this subject under three heads, viz:

1st. Mission Study Classes.

2d. Monthly Programs.

3d. Prayer Bands and Bible Study. Taking the first, Mission Study Classes, which has been proved over and over again the greatest force of missionary power. As quality is more to be desired than quantity, a small class of thoroughly interested persons

will accomplish more and make more impression on a church's life than a large number of half-hearted ones who would soon forget the knowledge gained and who would not use it for the advancement of the Master's Kingdom. The meetings should be by all means weekly, so the interest aroused at one meeting may be fostered and added to until it finds an outlet in work for the Master. Always close the course with a definite aim that the study may not be merely a literary study, but that we may have learned to serve Him better and to do our work for the extending of His kingdom with more idea of His plan and the need of the world. The leader need not be especially gifted, for there is a wealth of available material and in such shape as to be easily handled by even the most inexperienced. All members should have a copy of the study book and be encouraged to bring current items from the daily papers and magazines. Treat every chapter differently. At one meeting a debate might be the prominent feature—most subjects have several sides; at another a free discussion might bring out unexpected ideas and knowledge. The notebook is a valuable adjunct, as a review of former chapters will give a better idea of the whole. I will not go into this more fully in this short paper, as every leader should have a copy of the "Mission Study Class Manual," by B. Carter Milliken, or "The Mission Study Class—What Is It? How to Organize It," by T. P. H. Saller, price 5 cents each. The leader should be careful to select a book suited to the class, as too deep a book might discourage a class unaccustomed to study, but too shallow a one would not be deemed worth while by the student. Every study book has "helps for leaders" which are invaluable, and which will make every leader able to conduct a class. Don't be discouraged if your class does not measure up to the full standard—none do. That is ideal, and we only grow by having such a standard and endeavoring to reach it. Do not think one study class enough. Many groups might be formed; a Sunday-school class might study during the week; the Christian Endeavor might have one in its circle, but not at its regular meeting time; then there are special books that appeal especially to men; in fact, there seems to be no limit to the study in classes.

2d. Programs.—There is one absolutely necessary thing to have in programs—variety, variety, VARIETY (I wish I could ring the changes on that), if it is only a new arrangement of chairs. Try current events at roll-call, even if you have to supply the member who has none. Give each member something to do; don't ask the same ones every time. Make one or two hostesses to see that the room is ready, chairs dusted, hymn books for every one, and also a hearty greeting; use posters; possibly you have a gifted member with her pen or brush—but crude ones are quite as effective. Do not try to have the program cover too much. Limit the ground to be covered, so the audience may go home with a clear idea of the subject presented and a definite object to pray for. Turn over the whole program sometimes to other people; you may sometimes make the most unexpected finds, as the most talkative member is not necessarily the most capable. Do not neglect Bible study as a part of the program. We must know what God has told us before we can work intelligently. Not merely a perfunctory prayer and Scripture reading with no bearing on the subject, but a well-planned course and definite prayer for definite things, and expect an answer.

3d. "Prayer Circles and Bible Study."—During this year the General Assembly has asked that special emphasis be laid on individual effort to win souls for the Master and that "Personal Worker Win-One Leagues" be organized in each church. Will you be the one to do that? Are you ready to work in the Master's vineyard? It will bring wonderful peace and joy into your life if your word is the one that is the means of saving a soul from everlasting suffering. There is not one of us who would not risk her life to save a person from physical death. How much more should we be willing to risk scorn, or, what is worse, indifference or ridicule, to save a soul from eternal death. The closet is the best preparation for such work, and God's Word is the sword of the Spirit which will meet every argument and which will not return unto Him void. Remember, you may be the one the Lord is relying on to do this work in your society, in your community, and if you fail Him you will lose the blessing He wants you to have, and the responsibility of many souls be laid at your door.

Pray, first, for "grace" to do His will; second, for "power" to do it well; and then take one step at a time and He will sustain you and show you fields where you never dreamed there was a harvest. Do not despair if the way seems closed; He may be waiting until you are prepared. Pray and study His Word and a way will open, although it may not be the way you had planned or want. God's ways are not our ways. And let us stop right here and pray that we, as individuals, and as a part of our society, our Church, our Presbyterian, our Synodical, our Auxiliary, may strive to know our part and to do it.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen G. Drinker,  
Hiss Hope Stuart,  
Miss Bessie Cook.

## HIGHLAND ORPHANS' HOME.

We have been all alone with thirty-one children during the summer, which gives very little time for writing. During the past year a number of old outbuildings have been rebuilt and several of the rooms done over with alabastine and paint. The boys are now busy hauling gravel for the walks, as we do not wish to wade through the mud another winter. The cutting will be the next on the program. The lawn has been enhanced in appearance by weekly mowing during the summer. The common remark as people return is, "It does not look like the same place."

For the first time since we took charge, fifteen months ago, we left the children in charge of a reliable person during our attendance at Presbytery, and were glad on our return to find that everything had been attended to and not a case of discipline to claim our attention.

It will soon be time for Jack Frost to arrive, and we have sixteen boys with two feet each to put into shoes, and also some girls, and no money to buy them. Several of the girls have been provided for by interested individuals, and any person interested can lift a burden and provide for a pressing need if they will write us for information.

G. W. Kerstetter, Supt.  
Clay City, Ky.

## "GRUMBLE CORNER AND THANKS-GIVING STREET."

At a camp meeting in South Frainingham a man arose and said that he formerly lived in Grumble Corner, but had lately moved up to Thanks-giving Street, where the aid was fresher, the sunshine brighter and neighbors pleasanter."—Selected.